

*Dr. Vogel*

# discontinues funds emergency program

ice of the Department  
on and Welfare has  
ing for Western Ohio  
ical Services, the  
des emergency medi-  
ing and coordination  
counties.

trustees learned that  
d their request for a  
to continue into the  
ear, which began in  
WOEMS Director Phil  
gency can continue to  
er grant money until

ls have been filed  
regional office, "it ap-  
S program operations  
used out by Sept. 30 of  
other funding sources  
rd chairman Jeffrey

TMED that of the 16  
ns submitted in our  
gion, Western Ohio's  
ear the top based on  
ew of the application  
W review panel of ex-  
n said.

HEW notice "recog-  
for having well de-  
ncy Medical Services  
ams and ambulance  
gies," the letter said  
was rejected due to  
regional Advanced Life  
nication and medical

The program would enable a physi-  
cian in a hospital to provide directions  
to paramedics in the field via UHF te-  
lemetry radio, Hanna said. The UHF  
system would have eight channels to  
transmit vocal instructions and medical  
data between hospital and ambulance,  
he said.

Federal instructions said such a plan  
only "had to be conceptualized in this  
grant year," Hanna said. "We thought  
we had satisfied them on this point."

**OTHER REGIONAL EMS** programs  
have communication and medical con-  
trol plans that differ very little from  
WOEMS's yet these programs were  
funded, Huntington said.

"It appears that HEW's disapproval of  
our project, particularly in light of its  
high ranking in the review process was  
unfair and capricious," Huntington said.

WOEMS has directly trained 40  
percent of the cardiopulmonary resusci-  
tation instructors in Montgomery,  
Greene and Preble counties and 43 per-  
cent of the CPR instructors in Cham-  
paign, Clark, Clinton, Darke, Miami,  
Shelby and Warren counties, according  
to the agency.

WOEMS-trained instructors provided  
CPR training to an additional 5,050 per-  
sons in the 10-county region in 1977  
and trained 5,100 persons in first aid for  
choking in the last two year, according  
to agency figures.

Hanna said the agency is seeking  
other sources of funding.

## inary hearing waived

Twp. police detective  
as waived a prelimi-  
charges of grand theft  
e and the case will be  
to the Montgomery

120 Stone Quarry Rd.,  
to have had a prelimi-  
morning.

ad been with the de-  
ruly seven years, has

been free without bond since his initial  
appearance July 8 before Judge James  
B. Hochman of Montgomery County  
District Court No. 2.

Melton resigned two days earlier  
after he had been arrested and charged  
with taking about \$1,000 in evidence  
from a December bank robbery, along  
with guns and narcotics from the evi-  
dence room. The guns and drugs were  
to have been destroyed.

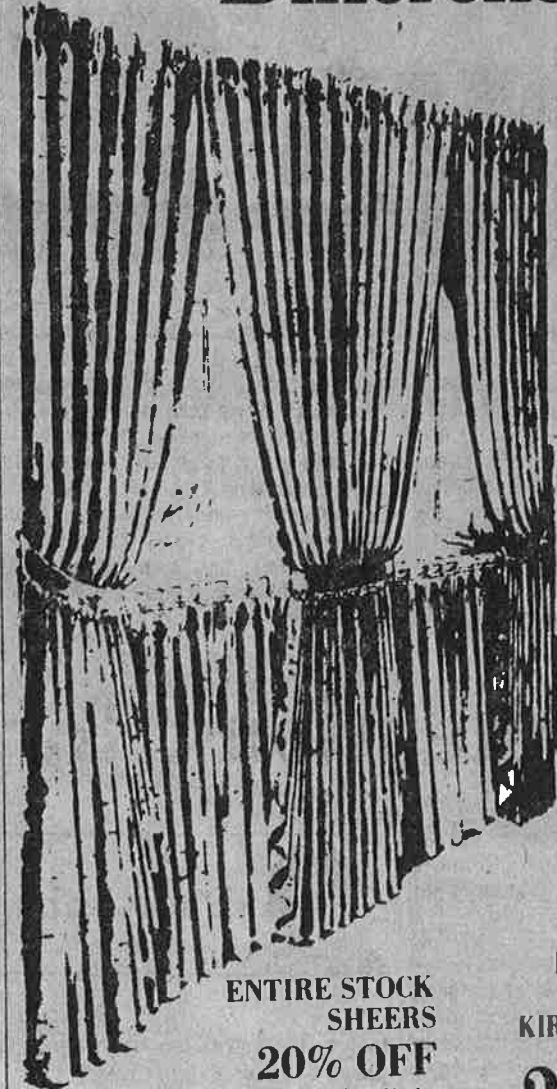
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st dismal

# board needs levy to retain services

LL  
f Writer  
y Combined General  
ld Wednesday the dis-  
tain existing services  
mill levy is passed.  
ctors had hoped for pas-  
to improve the services

f administration for the  
n to the board he pre-  
t with the idea salaries  
ositions, services and

completed the entire  
enditures and the reve-  
s," he said. "I found out  
with \$1-million deficit

, Petrokas projected the  
e amount of federal and  
1 1981 and pass a levy  
5 million. The budget  
ushion of \$110,000.  
ot be very realistic, ei-  
ost certain to be cut,  
ict probably can expect  
nts, contracts, fees and

with continued support  
e governments, the dis-  
icit, Petrokas said.  
g could be a precursor  
officially ended its envi-  
which it could no longer

afford, by approving the resignation of all 15 employ-  
ees.

**THE BOARD ALSO** approved the layoff of two employees of its alcoholism program and the termination of a contract with a third. Two other positions vacated because of resignations also won't be filled in an effort to offset an \$81,000 loss of funds, Petrokas said. The program already has reduced its beds, available to persons without insurance or other coverage. It is considering moving because of an increase in rent proposed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health.

Petrokas said that without passage of a levy the board will have to look at laying off of about 75 more employees in 1982.

As the board members examined the budget, Petrokas asked them to look at several options when they consider what to do in 1982. Petrokas recommended that they look at salaries to help narrow the gap between employee wages. He also suggested the board look at putting a ceiling on escalating health insurance costs — a move which brought the city of Dayton to the brink of an employee strike when it was suggested earlier this year. Petrokas also called for a reassessing of environmental health and air pollution control programs, both of which place a drain on local resources.

**PETROKAS ALSO RECOMMENDED** the board scrutinize its alcoholism program, which may be competing with detoxification programs at Miami Valley and Good Samaritan hospitals at a time when the district cannot afford to duplicate services.

Some thought should be given to combining neighborhood health centers, he suggested.

The board also may have to look at raising fees for some services and charging fees from some services

now provided at no charge, board member Edward N. Rausch said.

In other action, the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency presented its proposal for revising air pollution control regulations for Montgomery County and announced a public hearing for Aug. 4 on the changes.

# 's Qualifications Are Questioned

ON  
health com-  
Wahl's  
questioned  
e board of  
k's board  
Lebanon  
ject at the  
e meeting  
n. He had

raised the question during the customary executive session preceding last month's board meeting.

State law requires the health commissioner to be a licensed physician, dentist, or veterinarian, or to hold a master's degree in public health.

Wahl has a master's degree in

health administration. An attorney general's opinion, rendered in March in response to a request from Greene County, quoted the section of state law (Ohio Revised Code 3709.11).

Several opinions on this topic have been made by attorneys general through the years, and some of them have held that

a person with "equivalent" educational qualifications could serve as health commissioner.

### "Local Determination"

Because of these opinions, local boards of health have had some latitude in determining whether a candidate for health commissioner is qualified by educational background.

"It has been left up for local

determination," Wahl said during discussion Wednesday. "When I was hired, it was determined that I was qualified," he added.

He agreed with Heery however, that the latest attorney general's opinion was a strict interpretation of ORC 3709.11 and made no provision for "equivalencies."

"I discussed this with a state legislator, and the regulation (3709.11) needs to be changed," Wahl said. "There is a proposal in the legislature" to broaden qualifications for health commissioner, he reported.

"It might be two years before something happens," Heery responded. "Somebody has to be health commissioner who is qualified."

### Contingency Plans

Dr. Fred Guenther of Springboro, president of the board of health, said, "I think I mentioned (at last month's executive session) that we'd have to face this situation and make some contingency plans (if Wahl was ruled unqualified.)"

Contingencies Dr. Guenther mentioned might include elevating a board of health member (two are physicians and two are veterinarians) to health commissioner, or changing Dr. Ray Simendinger's title of medical director to health commissioner and changing Wahl's title to administrator.

"Somebody's got to get this on the track," Heery persisted. "Suppose someone questions the salary (paid to Wahl). There's a lot of angles on this thing."

Wahl suggested that the board consult with county prosecutor Morris J. Turkelson to see what his current view is of the situation.

"The attorney general has made an opinion, and it's pretty black and white," Dr. Guenther said.

"We could be in serious trouble," Heery contended. "A taxpayers' suit could be brought on the question of salaries." Dr. Beverly Ungerleider, board member,



# h Employee Sues Over Her Dismissal

county's health  
and \$45,000 in  
Wahl, health  
county common  
of mandamus,  
damages.  
court to issue  
board of health  
lost hospital-  
damages from  
damages and

\$25,000 "punitive and exemplary" damages from Wahl individually, plus attorney fees and legal expenses.

The complaint charges that Wahl abolished Mrs. McCurley's job as health aide II last June, while she was recovering from cataract surgery, and that Wahl did this without obtaining required approval of the board of health.

Abolishment of the job was overturned later by the state personnel review board following an appeal to that agency by Mrs. McCurley.

The board of health appealed that decision to the common pleas court in Columbus (Franklin County), and a judge ruled in favor of Mrs. McCurley March 28.

The board of health had allowed her to return to work last Oct.

27, but the suit alleges that she was not assigned to her former duties in the child health and prenatal programs.

"Rather, she was assigned substantially janitorial tasks such as watering plants, straightening the waiting room area, stamping literature, cleaning up the kitchen, etc.," the complaint stated.

Mrs. McCurley resigned about the first of December.

The suit contends that Wahl's action to abolish her job "was done in bad faith, with wanton and reckless disregard for the rights of the plaintiff as a civil service employee and merely as a subterfuge to bring about (her) discharge. . . as a public health aide II."

Daily News Thurs., Jan. 10, 1980

## Survey shows health care misconceptions

GARRETT MILTON  
News Staff Writer

A number of residents of  
county don't find the  
county Combined Health  
as useful to them, a sur-  
State University's

was found.  
commissioned by the  
also concluded that those  
did not use the services  
believed they were avail-  
the poor. They also be-  
ple who could pay for  
ould do so. Others said  
hy and had no need for

Vogel, county health com-  
the survey did serve to  
common misconceptions  
re provided by publicly-  
facilities. He added that  
arily an accurate assess-  
d services and how the  
se the services perceive

ANY of the people were  
he needs of the com-  
el said at the meeting  
the health district board  
whom the survey results

ing about a general sur-  
that it is a random sam-  
s not specifically address  
ho need the services,"  
d.

surveys we did ourselves  
out 98 percent of the peo-  
clinics and services are  
them," he said. "And we  
hile Vogel services about  
, there are 18,000 people  
served out there."

survey does "give us a

community aware of, certain programs  
that we provide."

**THE SURVEY SHOWED** that only  
38.5 percent of the participants were  
aware of the Vogel clinic and the major-  
ity of them felt the facility was "not  
useful."

Dr. Inder P. Khera, who directed the  
survey, said that he was not shocked by  
the findings. He said comparable sur-  
veys in other metropolitan areas  
showed people generally believe there  
is a stigma associated with participation  
in government-financed health  
programs.

The local survey was based on ques-  
tionnaires answered by 559 people from  
Dayton, and Montgomery and Greene  
counties, Khera said. Questionnaires  
were mailed in May 1979 to 750 people  
on a Wright State consumer panel, and  
to 500 Daytonians selected at random.

Vogel said the health district has  
hired a Wright State marketing student,  
an assistant of Khera's, to help analyze

the findings and work with each de-  
partment. He said the survey will be  
used in developing the health district's  
five-year plan for 1981 to 1986.

**HE SAID THE DISTRICT** would con-  
sider whether some services need to be  
cut back or eliminated, and others ex-  
panded.

Of those surveyed, 41.4 percent said  
they found the immunization clinic use-  
ful to them, the highest rating given  
any of the services. Heading the "least  
useful" list was health information,  
cited by 31.4 percent.

The most frequent reason given for  
contact with the health district by those  
surveyed was to obtain birth and death  
certificates, with 17.7 percent. After  
that, 11.7 percent said they had blood  
pressure testing, 10.9 percent had  
visited the tuberculosis clinic and 9.8  
percent had used the immunization  
clinic.

The services listed as the least used by  
the respondents were the Hawthorne  
School program for unwed student-par-

ents, occupation therapy, hot meals  
delivered to the sick and elderly's  
homes, alcoholism treatment, and pre-  
natal care.

**ALSO, AT THE** meeting, the board  
approved its contract with the city of  
Dayton for 1980. The city has granted  
the district \$1.44 million, the same  
amount as last year.

Vogel said he has heard that the  
federal government may also hold its  
allotment at the same level as last year  
or reduce it. The federal government  
normally provides 34 percent of the dis-  
trict's \$8.5 million annual budget.

Vogel said 70 percent of the district's  
budget is used to provide state-man-  
dated services, such as inspections, but  
the state provides less than 1 percent of  
district funds. The rest comes from the  
townships and other revenues.

If the district's funds do not increase,  
he said, it will mean some job freezes  
through attrition and, consequently, de-  
creases in services. The largest impact  
would come in 1981, he said.

# Debt closes diet clinic

The Physicians Weight Loss Centers, 5450 Far Hills Ave., Kettering, was placed in lien by the Dayton Newspapers Inc. and closed Monday afternoon.

Dayton Deputy Bailiff Stan Creekmore said that "No Trespassing" signs were placed on the three doors to the business and all locks were changed.

According to Creekmore, the Physicians Weight Loss Centers owe

the DNI \$27,466. If the owners — Robert and Joyce Kramer — do not pay their debts, Creekmore said his office will sell all the goods, fixtures and equipment in the office at a public auction. The receipts from the auction would be turned over to the DNI.

The Physicians Weight Loss Centers was listed in the writ of execution, dated Aug. 16, as the Tiffany Corp.

## Arboretum workshop offers canning tips

So many were interested in the last food preservation workshop, Cox Arboretum is offering it again. Everyone interested can attend "Preserve It Right — Canning, Freezing and Drying" at the arboretum on Saturday, Aug. 27, at 10 a.m.

Chris Olinsky, a home economist agent with the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service, will discuss the three methods of preserving foods — canning, freezing and drying.

Olinsky also will speak about properly filling and packing jars and the different types of equipment needed for food preservation. A pressure canner, plastic bags and a conventional oven are the basic equipment necessary for home canning, according to Olinsky.

Cox Arboretum is located at 6733 Springboro Pike, one mile north of Ohio 725. The arboretum is operated by the Dayton-Montgomery County Park District. For more information, call 434-9005.

# County cost plan criticized

By D.J. Hill

Staff Writer

Health officials said Wednesday that they don't have the money to absorb the cost of air pollution control and housing code enforcement from the Montgomery County Commissioners.

"It's the old passing the buck," said Dr. Robert A. Vogel, who left the job as health commissioner Monday, but remains as a consultant to the Combined Health District of Montgomery County. "Now they're trying to pass the cost along to us."

County officials have proposed not supporting the program next year to shave costs. The county commission's 1983 contribution to air pollution control was \$100,000 and the housing code enforcement contribution was \$245,000.

Dr. Morton Nelson, Vogel's successor, said the money that the county commissioners have spent over the years for air pollution control and housing inspection was "well spent" and a minimal investment for the county.

In a letter to Vogel last month, County Administrator Claude D. Malone said the county planned to withdraw its contribution to the air pollution and housing inspection programs run by the health district.

Malone suggested that the health district use part of the revenue it receives from a levy approved by voters last year to cover air pollution control and collect fees from local governments to pay for housing inspection.

However, health board members on Wednesday authorized Dr. Herman Abromowitz, board chairman, to tell Malone the health district cannot pick up the costs of the two programs.

Abromowitz said that the district's 0.75-mill levy is being used to maintain services and that there isn't money remaining to take on more programs.

The county commission refused the health district's initial request for a 1-mill levy and would authorize only .75 mills, a point noted by Vogel Wednesday.

"If they had let us have the 1 mill, maybe we would have the money," Vogel said. "But, no. The commissioners and the business community decided we didn't need but three-quarters of a mill. . . Ever since we have had that levy, they (county officials) think we have more money than we know what to do with over here."

Vogel said that health officials would meet with business leaders and chambers of commerce to see how they would suggest the county pay for air pollution control. The health district could charge industries for the cost of air pollution inspection and monitoring. But, some businesses could be stuck with a tab as high as \$4,000 a year, Vogel said.

"Basically, I think it's the business community's decision," Vogel said. "If they don't think they need air pollution control for the local community, then let them decide not to pay it."

Malone said later Wednesday that if the health district discontinued its program, then businesses would have to deal directly with the state air pollution control program.

The housing program includes inspection of property considered to be a nuisance or health hazard. The health district has the authority to order landowners to either clean up the property or

# County health tax levy back on ballot in June

Depton Daily  
12/05/81

By D.J. HILL  
Daily News Staff Writer

The Montgomery County Board of Health began facing up to 1982 budget cuts Wednesday, but also decided it would try again next June to gain voter approval of a 1-mill property tax levy.

The board decided to withhold across-the-board salary increases for staff next year and eliminate its reserve.

But that is just the beginning. The big decisions come Dec. 16 when the board meets in a special session to adopt a budget.

**BOARD MEMBERS** left the Wednesday meeting unhappy and still unsure of some key factors: Are any more federal cuts coming after January and will the city of Dayton cut in half its support of the health district in 1982?

The board decided to put the levy on the June primary ballot, with a possible repeat in August or November should it fail in June.

A 1-mill property tax means \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 in taxable valuation, which the state defines as being 35 percent of actual market value. Thus, a 1-mill levy would translate into an additional \$14 a year in taxes on a typical house with an official county market valuation of \$40,000.

The Montgomery County Combined General Health District narrowly lost its bid last month to win passage of a levy which would have generated \$3.7 million and eliminated the need for local governments to contribute to the district.

**THE BUDGET** projections first presented to the board Wednesday showed a deficit of \$1.08 million or \$1.71 million in 1982, depending on whether Dayton cuts its \$1.32 million reimbursement to \$726,000 next year. Those figures don't take into account federal cuts which might come down the road.

The board erased at least \$500,000 of that deficit by deciding against the staff's annual salary increases and eliminating its \$300,000 reserve.

The staff will be working during the next two weeks to find ways to erase more of the deficit.

The board tabled a proposal by Gregory Rozelle, administrator of personal health programs, to raise fees for immunization, tuberculosis testing and venereal disease clinics. Some fees could more than quadruple if the board accepts his proposals.

**FOR EXAMPLE**, if his suggestions were adopted, immunization for overseas trips would go from \$5 to \$20, and costs for a visit to the venereal disease clinic would go from \$5 to \$25.

His proposal also would eliminate night clinics downtown while maintaining them at neighborhood centers. Rozelle also recommended elimination of flu shots for senior citizens since the federal and state governments no longer buy the vaccine.

Rozelle said his department is looking at some program changes, such as trimming hours, but a drastic cut in money from the city of Dayton could mean the elimination of some programs or sites.

The revenues from Dayton and the federal government also will affect how many people will be laid off. After the board finishes its business Dec. 16, the administration plans to begin handing out two-week notices.

**THE BOARD** tried everything it could Wednesday to scrape up money. For example, it decided to ask the County Commission to waive its \$17,000 per month rent at the Sunrise Center. It also voted to reconsider its contract with Good Samaritan Hospital for services it provides at Vogel Health Center. The hospital will be asked to share in building costs and to stop charging the health district for non-paying patients seen in the ambulatory clinic.

Health Commissioner Dr. Robert Vogel said, "We will be operating in 1982 on a month-to-month basis."